



AUGUST 2021

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©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Hello again, club members.

Another month has come and gone. Summer is waning and soon DX will (hopefully) be rolling in. Conditions should improve as we go into the fall and winter months. This is good news for both the DX / Contest crowd as well as the casual rag chewers.

It's been a hard row to hoe to get even a casual conversation going on HF lately, but the prognosticators tell us that things are going to get better: "Any day now!"

Hopefully they're correct.

Back to club news: as many of you already know, the clubhouse is again open for business on Saturdays. Currently, the turnout has been a bit sparse, but just like the ham bands, we hope that people will begin to return to the Saturday open house again.

A small word though: masks are still encouraged but not required. Secondly, if the virus resurgence gets worse, we may be forced to close the clubhouse again. Hopefully, that will not be necessary.

If things change, we will inform everybody via the website, the "Loggers Bark" and the regular Tuesday night nets. Please, keep abreast of events as things change. Lets all hope for the best!

Also, the management has been trying hybrid meetings for the monthly general and business meetings. The hybrid part is that some of the participants are in the clubhouse and the rest are on the "ZOOM!" platform.

Again, stay informed as we go in by checking in on the nets, websites, or by reading the "Loggers Bark".

Thanks for reading the "Barkie" and see you all next month!

73 Gary WG7X



Page 1: Editors report.

Page 2: BOD Meeting minutes.

Page 6: General meeting minutes.

Page 9 Salmon Run!

Page 10: From Our Librarian.

Page 11: Stuff!

Radio Club of Tacoma**Board of Directors Meeting****August 4, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 19:00 by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was present and 11 members attended. The attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness? Greta Hewlett KF7KSW is reported to have a broken ankle and is in an assisted living situation which allows no visitors at this time.

Tom Lesick W7TJL is reported as being recently disabled.

Approval of Minutes of July 7, 2021 RCT BOD meeting. Bruce WE7P moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

2019 990N filing: Brendan Keyport WA7BMK who works for an accounting firm, filed through his firm and we received an acknowledgement that the 2019 990N was received. Brendon donated his firm's filing expense which is usually \$50.

Historical items received: In the last month, I've received CDs and photographs of various events from the club's past. I think that I should give them to our historian, Doug Oakman.

New Hams Mailings: I received another list of new hams today so will do another mailing soon.

To the best of my knowledge, we've received one visitor based on the mailings but I have no information about any new members based on the mailings.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve distributed the financial reports for income and disbursements through July 30th. Reports are attached.

Committee / Reports**Membership (KJ7GGB)**

George K7GRS reported membership is now 270. He also reported that he was going to help Juan get caught up and perhaps take the lead in membership.

Library (AD7AV)

No report

Training (AD7AB)

A Technician class will start in October. A General Class will start September 27th taught by Dave Brooks N7HT. The class will run for 10 weeks on Monday nights. There was discussion about contingencies in view of the expectation that restrictions on groups may re occur due to Covid. Discussion revolved around ZOOM meetings and technical needs.

VE (AC7WW)

Phil K7PIA reported testing this month on the 10th will be in the clubhouse.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reported in writing: IT systems operating nominally.

Website is up-to-date as best he knows. Stephen AD7AB is cross-training on it with him and hopefully Randy and Stephen will divide duties. Randy always appreciates receiving updated information on missing links or other inaccuracies to the website.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil reports that as far as he knows, all stations are operating normally. View

www.contestcalendar.com for contests. If you want to contest, let Phil know and he'll try to get it set up

for you at the club. Adam W2NCC and Al N7OMS are planning the move of the VHF/UHF station to the upstairs HF room.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al N7OMS reported in writing:

2 meters: We have not heard back about the lease agreement for Crawford yet, so that is holding. I wonder if the check has cleared? I have not heard of any issues from users of Crawford.

The 147.28 and 440 machines are working just fine.

Bates has an issue with the controller and needs a visit. That is in the works. I have the old codes and a bunch of keys and will work to get access and arrange a visit, maybe with KR7W. I was told the power was out for a couple of hours by one of the ARES hams that use this repeater for nets. They are still using this repeater it is just not identifying.

VHF and UHF move: The team of Adam, Bentneedle Mike and myself have yet to resume this work. I'm hoping to meet with them and form a firm plan of attack. I'm not sure where the club grounding team is with its progress and it would be helpful to have convergent goals in the beginning to not duplicate the work or cause extra work. I will be in contact with Adam about this aspect of the project. No monies have yet been spent from the budget of 500 dollars.

I have spoken with Chris N7CPM about contesting this fall and he is in. Checking the contest calendar is high on my todo list. More later with hopes to have article for Bark in next issue.

End of reports

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on projects that are ongoing/upcoming. A new interface board for the phone is to be mounted. This board will also mount a camera DVR that was donated to the club. Some work is needed in the garage, sorting and organizing. There may be lots of available aluminum scrap from old antenna partials.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported that PMT received \$489 in income from sales at the clubhouse over the last two weeks. Other potential sales are possible. Red moved to surplus the items on the list attached. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Weds Workshop (WB4SPB)

No report

General Meeting (KF7SCB)

Mark Yordy, Pierce County ARES will demonstrate portable antennas.

Unfinished Business

- Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Mailings (W7XTZ/WB4SPB)

MikeW7XTZ reported that the volunteer's duties have been firmed up and a new meeting will happen on the 13th. George K7GRS reported that all is in readiness for the fall mailings.

- The bylaws committee is:
 - Peter Baker, Doug Schafer, George Salisbury and Mike Mikuchonis

- It was reaffirmed that former members whose membership expired in 2020 could renew for 2021 for ½ price but those whose membership expired earlier than 2020 will still have to pay full year dues as per the bylaws and the board action at their July 7, 2021 meeting.

New Business

- How/Where to have monthly meetings?
 - Libraries have been looked into and they may be available after September.
 - Hybrid meetings were discussed due to uncertainty of possible Covid restriction in the Fall. Hybrid meetings are those with members at the clubhouse and others attending via ZOOM. How to possibly make hybrid meetings better was discussed.
- When to have Monthly Meetings: Saturday vs a week night. Steve AF7YD moved that starting in October the monthly meeting be moved to second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. The meeting will be hybrid meeting type with members at the club and ZOOM broadcast for those not in the club. Motion seconded and motion passed. Please publish this time change in *BARK* and elsewhere.
- Steve AF7YD discussed the possibility to sell the club history book at Saturday open houses and suggested we have a self-service kiosk where purchasers could get a book. Books are currently available to order via the website.

With no further business or announcements Mike-W7XTZ Adjourned the meeting at 20:30.

Respectfully,

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

RCT Secretary

Attachments: Attendance List

Treasurer's Report

PMT Surplus List

Radio Club of Tacoma Minutes of General Meeting**August 14, 2021****Officers and Directors Present**

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Paul Matney K7PFU

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Meeting Called to Order at: 13:30 by Mike W7XTZ.

Quorum? A quorum for business was not available. 28 members and visitors attended the meeting. The attendance list is attached.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors

Mark Yordy W7BBO from ARES was here to do a presentation.

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

Nothing offered. No news about Greta Hewlett KF7KSW

Program (KF7SCB) Verna KF7SCB introduced Mark Yordy W7BBO for the program. Mark can be reached at WE7B-BO@comcast.net

Mark's presentation is on radio antenna's basics in case of emergencies and to increase interest

- Antennas change electromagnetic energy in to electric energy
- Bigger antennas are better, higher antennas are better
- Higher frequency = shorter wave lengths, lower is longer wave lengths
- Basic formula for $\frac{1}{2}$ wave antenna is $468/\text{Frequency (MHZ)} = \text{antenna length in feet}$
 - So a quarter wave for 2M is 19.25"
 - Mark showed a ground plane and a dipole for 2M
- dBi = isotropic antenna = theoretical antenna and is omnidirectional
- the $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole is measured as dBd and is a standard for measuring other antennas against
- Gain = stronger signal, loss = weaker signal
- Measured in decibels (dB) were 3 dB = factor of 2 (double) so,
 - 5 watts + 3dB gain = 10 Watts ERP (effective radiated power)
- Rubber Ducky = -6db loss so loss 4X signal strength
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ Wave dipole = +2dB gain

- 5/8 wave = 3dB gain
- 2 element Yagi = 5dB gain
- Radiated patterns of ½ wave dipole and 2 element Yagi were shown.
- A gain antenna does not create extra energy in just focuses existing energy into a more useful pattern
- Rubber Ducky (RD) so 5W +RD (-6dB)= 1.25 watts ERP
- ¼ wave + 5W = 20W ERP
- System gain = antenna gain – feedline loss– connector loss
- Feed Line Loss
- Operating frequency effects feedline loss
- Typically small diameter coax = more loss
- Longer feedline = more loss
- Mismatch (high SWR) causes more loss
- Polarization is horizontal or vertical and works best when transmit and receive antennas have the same polarization
- Cross polarization creates up to 30 dB of loss which is a factor of 1000
- 30 dB loss makes 100 watts act like a 0.1 watt output
- Mark demonstrated the radiating power/ polarity of antenna with 2M HT by directing the signal to a lightbulb wired to a ½ wave dipole receive antenna. He showed polarity by rotating his dipole antenna
- He then demonstrated the same using his tape measure Yagi antenna as a transmitting antenna. This demonstrated the gain of the Yagi over the dipole antenna
- In Q&A: hold HT so antenna is vertical
- Tiger tails (counterpoise) work: 19.25" for 2M attach to coax shield

Show and Tell

W7MKE showed his new Flex 6600 radio

Tuning and Traffic

Mark W7BBO and Mike W7XTZ both have worked POTA stations QRP. Lots of fun they say.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership

George K7GRS reported that Membership stands at 271 which is on par for an average year.

Library (AD7AV)

Library Policy request:

1. RCT History Books are available free to download from the www.w7dk.org website
2. Hard copies of the history are available to check out from the Doug DeMaw library
3. Any notion that copies of the history should be free to pick up on an honor system not already in place as in 1 & 2

above are requested to be discouraged.

Therefore, the following policy is requested by the Library committee:

"Hardcopy orders of the RCT history book should be only through the website or the paper order form in the clubhouse."

Training (AD7AB)

See website for more info. Tech class starts in October and General September 27th.

VE Report (AC7WW)

On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, your VE team was host to 16 candidates in two sessions in the clubhouse parking lot. Nine candidates passed element 2 to join the Amateur Service as Technicians. One candidate passed element 2 and 3 to become a General. Three candidates upgraded to General class. Two candidates upgraded to Extra. One candidate did not earn an initial license.

Thanks to the following for their service and time:

Leonard, KA7NWF

Jan, K7HTU

Rich, KK7VH Stephen, AD7AB

Phillip, K7PIA Whit, KG7LNZ

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday, September 14th 2021. Time to be determined.

Repeater Operations (N7OMS)

The repeater was down Tuesday for the net so on Wednesday Al N7OMS and Steve AF7YD worked on the repeater and controller for several hours but mostly tightened some loose wires and rebooted the controller a couple of times but were thinking there might be some component failure or intermittent failure at fault. At any rate, the 147.280 repeater was back on line Wednesday night and continues (through Saturday anyway) to be working.

Nothing heard from the DNR on the Crawford Mountain repeater lease but they have cashed our application fee.

Property Management (WB7EC)

PMT was busy last month, checking and tagging donated equipment. Last month we took in \$498 and this month over \$300 so far. Please check out the PMT list at the club or in the member's only section of the website. If you're interested in joining the PMT team please see Red WB7EC.

Member's questions for Officers or committee chairs

There was a clarification that PMT lists are no longer published in the *BARK* but are available online to members and posted at the clubhouse. See W7DK.org under the member perks tab.

Unfinished Business

Nothing pending

New Business

Per our Bylaws: In August the President will appoint a nominating committee for 2021 elections. Their purpose is to find at least one person to stand for each available office. Positions up for election: VP (Adam W2NCC), Secretary (Mike W7MKE) and three BOD positions Bruce WE7P, Paul W7PFU and Verna KF7SCB.

Mike W7XTZ announced that he would be forming a committee for nominations. If you want to run for one of the offices please let Mike or the nominating committee know.

Announcements

Mike W7MKE indicated that we've located a facility for our December Banquet and will attempt to secure it promptly.

Adjacent counties have gone to a mask requirement so be aware that Pierce county may go that direction too.

Larry KD4VOM told us that the Rickreall, OR Hamfest will be happening this year. See <http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm>

Randy WB4SPB pointed out that on the home page of the website under notes that there is a schedule for various events including a Hamfest and foxhunt.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM

It's that time of year again: The annual RCT fund raising event! RCT uses the Washington State QSO party as a fund raising event and we have been doing this for quite a few years with great success! The funds we generate each year go to help keeping the lights on at W7DK; a thing that takes more money than you might think!

So how it works is like this: we decide how much we want to donate. Then we use the website below to fill out a pledge sheet and send that off to the RCT salmon Run committee. It's just that easy. Because of increased costs and personnel limitations caused by C-19 we have done away with the hard copy forms. We hope that everyone will understand and adopt this new way of doing stuff... 73 Gary WG7X Loyal Barkie editor!

Hey guys... it's about time to fish or cut bait!
Salmon Run21
is on September 18, 19 this year.

The great annual tradition of Salmon Run is about upon us, so reach into that creel for a generous donation to the 2021 fundraiser for the Radio Club of Tacoma!

Or plan some fancy QSLing with the gang to rack up some great scores!



Download a pledge sheet at www.w7dk.org/data/SalmonRunPledge.pdf

Now a message from Doug Oakman, Head Librarian for W7DK / RCT

Sorry I cannot make board meetings as I am secretary for the Amateur Radio Communication Services (ARCS) that also meets first Wed. of the month. In near future I'll have George or Randy deliver a report on library planning in process.

I write especially because I understand an issue has arisen over making copies of the history available for anyone in the clubhouse on an honors basis (i.e., if they take one they would be expected to make a donation).

George and I both prefer that orders be placed either through the website or through a paper order form that will soon be made available in the clubhouse (and then form needs to be forwarded to George, perhaps through a box at clubhouse?).

Reasons: Copies for perusal are available in the Doug DeMaw Library. Also, any club member can download the history from the website. Given that production rests upon George, and that his volunteer time, energy, and printing expertise have made possible such a nice hardcopy document, I would like orders to be carefully considered both by George and by the ordering interested parties. I believe this will ensure that the document is delivered in the highest quality possible and that no undue expectations for "free copies" are raised.

If this policy--"Hardcopy orders of the history only through the website or the paper order form in the clubhouse," could be conveyed to the board and included in the minutes (and BARK), I would appreciate it.

Thanks and 73

Douglas E. Oakman, Ph.D.



I am 85, I must retire



WUSS!

Three elderly men, Eddie, Jenkin and Martin go to the doctor's for their memory test. It's a miracle they remembered the appointment! Anyway, the doctor begins by asking Eddie, "What is five times five?" "191," is his reply. The doctor rolls his eyes and looks up at the ceiling, and says to Jenkin, "It's your turn. What is five times five?"

"Wednesday," replies Jenkin. The doctor shakes his head sadly, then asks the third man, "Okay Martin it's your turn. What's five times five?" "Twenty five," says Martin. "That's great!" says the doctor. "How did you get your answer?" "Easy," says Martin, "just subtract 191 from Wednesday."

THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Verna Lilly KF7SBC- KF7SCB@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Gary McAdams WG7X wg7x@w7dk.org

Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma

ARRL Liaison: Unassigned

Send articles to: bark-editor at w7dk.org, or Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

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MEMBERSHIP INFO: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is \$35 per calendar year or \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3